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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Man Sentenced to 15 Years for Armed Robbery

GALVESTON – Today, Joel Devin Robinson, 21, was sentenced to 15 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, as assessed by the jury, for the felony offense of Aggravated Robbery.

On Monday, June 13, 2016, trial began in the 405th District Court. The State presented witness testimony and physical evidence that Joel Robinson and another individual robbed a Whataburger on January 14, 2015.

Shortly after 10:00 p.m. on January 14, 2015, two masked men stormed into the Whataburger with a shotgun and backpack and demanded money from the drive-thru clerk. The first man held a shotgun to the clerk's head when she hesitated to open the register. Video surveillance showed the second man take off his backpack in front of the store registers. Whataburger employees testified that two employees ran out the back door of the restaurant, triggering an alarm. The two men then ran out of the store. Dickinson police were dispatched to the scene when an assistant manager called the police. Responding officers located a suspect matching the description of the man with the backpack in a field and arrested him after a short chase.

The jury heard closing arguments on Tuesday and then retired to deliberate. The jury returned about an hour and a half later with a guilty verdict.

During punishment, the State's submitted evidence to support a misdemeanor marijuana conviction. Robinson took the stand to testify during punishment, confirming that he was in fact the masked individual with the backpack that assisted in the armed robbery. The jury took about four hours to deliberate before returning Wednesday afternoon with a 15 year prison sentence. The Defendant was probation eligible but the jury declined to suspend his sentence.

Robinson was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Matthew Shawhan and Kacey Launius in the 405th District Court, with Judge Michelle Slaughter presiding. The investigation was conducted by the Dickinson Police Department.

Mugshots of active inmates are available at: <http://p2c.co.galveston.tx.us/jailinmates.aspx>

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